

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1996 without my signature.

In vetoing similar legislation last year, I made it clear that I support the use of drug treatment programs as a viable intervention tool for drug users. It is important to provide individuals with the correct incentive to transition from a life of crime and substance abuse to one of work and personal responsibility. However, extending food stamp eligibility to drug dealers or traffickers, upon the condition that they engage in drug treatment, will not ensure these individuals will stop selling or trafficking illegal drugs. Therefore, this bill does not provide a targeted approach to the right population and does not ensure adequate public safety protections.

For these reasons, I am unable to sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger